5-27-15

The Valley Star

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT MEDIA OUTLET OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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Fashion fugitive on the loose.
Valley Life

Love: there's an app for that.
News

Monarchs pitcher is zoning in.
Sports

VALLEY LIFELINE

The week of the F-word

■ Study tips for finals available to students.

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Anxiety, stress, unlimited cups of coffee, flashcards, and zero sleep -- also known as finals week.

As college semesters nationwide come to a close, students are prepping themselves for what could be a grueling week of nonstop-studying. Study habits and rituals developed over years of schooling collectively reach a pinnacle to attempt to achieve an acceptable grade.

""I organize all of my classwork for each class and I focus on the parts that I had trouble with in previous quizzes and tests," said Nouran Felo, biology major. "So it's more

see FINALS page 2

BIG SISTER IS WATCHING YOU

ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

THE VALLEY LADY - Valley College has selected Kent Twitchell's, "The Old Woman of the Freeway," to be the first mural painted on a building at Valley. The mural is being installed at the Student Services Center. According to the Public Art Committee, this is Twitchell's first project on campus.

NEWS

Stuck at the start

■ **Valley struggles to meet demand for classes.**

BY KIMIYA MANOOCHEHRI
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Valley College students who plan to get on a set academic track often find a logjam at the starting line. And that congestion can divert them from their goals – and the school.

Aspiring pre-med student Becky Paz, 20, intended to major in Biology. Frustrated after being repeatedly wait-listed for intro-level science classes without which she could not proceed, Paz finally switched to History.

"I was frustrated and [wasn't] going to prolong my stay here when I would rather transfer out ... so you can say I basically changed my major because I wasn't getting the classes I needed. It has delayed my game plan by one whole year," said Paz.

The problem is particularly acute for science majors because required labs cap class rolls at low numbers due to room restriction and safety regulations. Building-block courses Biology 3 and Anatomy 1, for example, were formerly capped at 36 students but recently increased to 40 because of student demand.

see DEMAND page 2

For additional content, please visit: thevalleystar.com

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE BELOW

From the Valley to the Ivy League

■ **Despite all odds, a 63 year-old psychology major will be transferring to Columbia University next fall.**

DAVID DINWIDDIE/VALLEY STAR

SEASONED - Marie Tramz, 63, is ready to embark on a new journey at Columbia University.

BY SARA ALMALLA
STAFF WRITER

Marie Tramz dropped out of high school in 1972 with a GPA that was below .675. Forty years later, she plans to attend Columbia University in the Fall.

Tramz grew up in a traditional filipino household. Her parents did not encourage her to attend college or achieve a degree- their only expectations were for her to marry.

She did go to college, though it was simply to get away from home. She chose Santa Clara University because her best friend was going there, but she hardly ever attended classes or did work. She changed her major so many times, she's not actually sure what it was in the end. Her parents had no objections so long as they could say she was doing something until she was married.

"About halfway through my Junior year, I figured I'd done everything I could there and dropped out," explained Tramz. "I decided I would go to work. I have never worked before because my parents did not allow me to."

Tramz went from job to job, from working at a Macy's to being the Orange County fundraiser for the Easter Seal program, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the disabled.

"If anyone talked to me about going back to school, I would have never ever said I was going back. If anyone talked to me about tests or finals or papers, the hair on my arms would stand up and I wouldn't want to hear about it," said Tramz.

Ironically, a few years ago she found herself at Valley, attending a legal secretary program and actually enjoying it.

Once a professor mentioned those with some sort of degree would be paid more, she began to work towards achieving a computer applications technology degree. After graduating, she admitted she had enjoyed it so much that she wanted to do it again– from a four-year college. Tramz returned the next semester and began taking courses in order to transfer. This time, she chose a psychology major.

"I chose Psychology for a BA because I'll be going into Internet marketing and thought that would help me in understanding people's motivations and how best to approach them."

Admissions counselors helped her figure out what classes she still needed to take and what she could do to help her transfer go more smoothly.

see COLUMBIA page 2

DAY CLASSES

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY JUNE 1			TUESDAY JUNE 2		
Time of Exam	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 – 7:55 MW 6:45 – 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 – 10:50 MTWTh 9:40 – 11:05 MW 9:40 – 10:55 MWF 9:40 – 12:10 MW	1:00 – 2:10 MTWTh 1:00 – 2:25 MW 1:00 – 2:15 MWTh 1:00 – 3:30 MW	6:30 – 7:55 TTh	9:40 – 11:05 TTh 9:40 – 10:55 TThF 9:40 – 12:10 TTh	1:00 – 2:25 TTh 1:00 – 2:15 TThF 1:00 – 3:30 TTh

Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY JUNE 3			THURSDAY JUNE 4		
Time of Exam	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 – 9:25 MTWTh 8:00 – 9:25 MW 8:00 – 9:15 MWF 8:00 – 10:30 MW	11:20 – 12:30 MTWTh 11:20 – 12:45 MW 11:20 – 12:35 MWF 11:20 – 1:50 MW	2:15 – 5:50 MW 2:20 – 3:30 MTWTh 2:40 – 4:05 MW	8:00 – 9:25 TTh 8:00 – 9:15 TThF 8:00 – 10:30 TTh	11:20 – 12:45 TTh 11:20 – 12:35 TThF 11:20 – 1:50 TTh	1:45 – 3:10 TTh 1:45 – 3:00 TThF 2:40 – 4:05 TTh

EVENING CLASSES

CLASSES MEETING AT 3 PM OR BEFORE 5 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT 5 PM OR BEFORE 6 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT OR AFTER 6 PM		
Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time
M	M Jun 1	4 – 6pm	M	M Jun 1	4:30 – 6:30pm	M	M Jun 1	7 – 9pm
T	T Jun 2	4 – 6pm	T	T Jun 2	4:30 – 6:30pm	T	T Jun 2	7 – 9pm
W	W Jun 3	4 – 6pm	W	W Jun 3	4:30 – 6:30pm	W	W Jun 3	7 – 9pm
Th	Th Jun 4	4 – 6pm	Th	Th Jun 4	4:30 – 6:30pm	Th	Th Jun 4	7 – 9pm
MW	M Jun 1	4 – 6pm	MW	W Jun 3	4:30 – 6:30pm	MW	M Jun 1	7 – 9pm
TTh	T Jun 2	4 – 6pm	TTh	Th Jun 4	4:30 – 6:30pm	TTh	T Jun 2	7 – 9pm

In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.

'Demand'

continued from page 1

Vice President of Academic Affairs Karen Daar said, "Those same labs may also be used for other Biology sections, so the department chair needs to ensure that she is maximizing the use of those laboratory facilities to meet all Biology students' needs."

Since becoming the chairperson of the Department of Biology in spring of 2013, Professor Sara Huang has been attempting to address the problem.

"The department has been working hard with the college to increase our offering of Anatomy 1 from seven sections in Fall 2013 to nine sections in Fall 2015," she said, ticking off a list of classes for which she has tried to add more sections, including in winter. She says her colleagues are well aware of the crush for basic classes such as Biology 3, juggling resources sometimes at the expense of other basic classes. "The department cut one Physiology 1 class so we can increase our Biology 3 class offering to 18 sections in Fall 2015 from 17 sections in Fall 2013."

Even then, at a maximum of 32 students per Biology 3 section, that would only increase capacity from 544 in Fall 2013 to 576 students in Fall 2015. Huang says that while the college does not track the number of students requesting particular classes (as opposed to the number who get in), her department logs science-class requests. According to those numbers, a staggering 1,311 students requested Biology 3 in Fall 2013. That's the high watermark under Huang, but the figure was as high as 961 in Spring 2013.

"As you can see the department is unable to meet student demands," said Huang.

While 30 "late-start" courses have been added this spring specifically to better meet students' needs, including five Biology 3 sections, none of those added was Biology 6 or any from Anatomy.

".. so you can say that I basically changed my major because I wasn't getting the classes I needed. It has delayed my game plan by one whole year."
- Becky Paz

Word may be getting around. Huang's statistics show a precipitous decline in requests for Biology 3 in recent semesters (down all the way to 412 in Spring 2014). Anatomy 1's requests have similarly cratered, going from 422 in Fall 2013 to just 164 last semester. While overwhelming demand is a problem, it may be preferable for the school to the problem of student flight.

Huang says, "I cannot speak on behalf of the college. As a department, we are struggling to meet student needs in certain areas even when the demand number has decreased. Personally, I am concerned that we may be driving students away to a different campus although I have no evidence to support my educated guess."

Thus far, Paz has taken classes at two other schools, Pierce and Glendale Community College.

"Pierce is the second-closest college to me, and the commute is still so bad," said Paz. "You have to get yourself at least two hours to commute. That's what I did last semester. I took a class [at Valley] in the morning, then I had a two-hour time frame to get to my class at Pierce, and anything less than that I probably couldn't get to my class in time. Especially if it's lunch time."

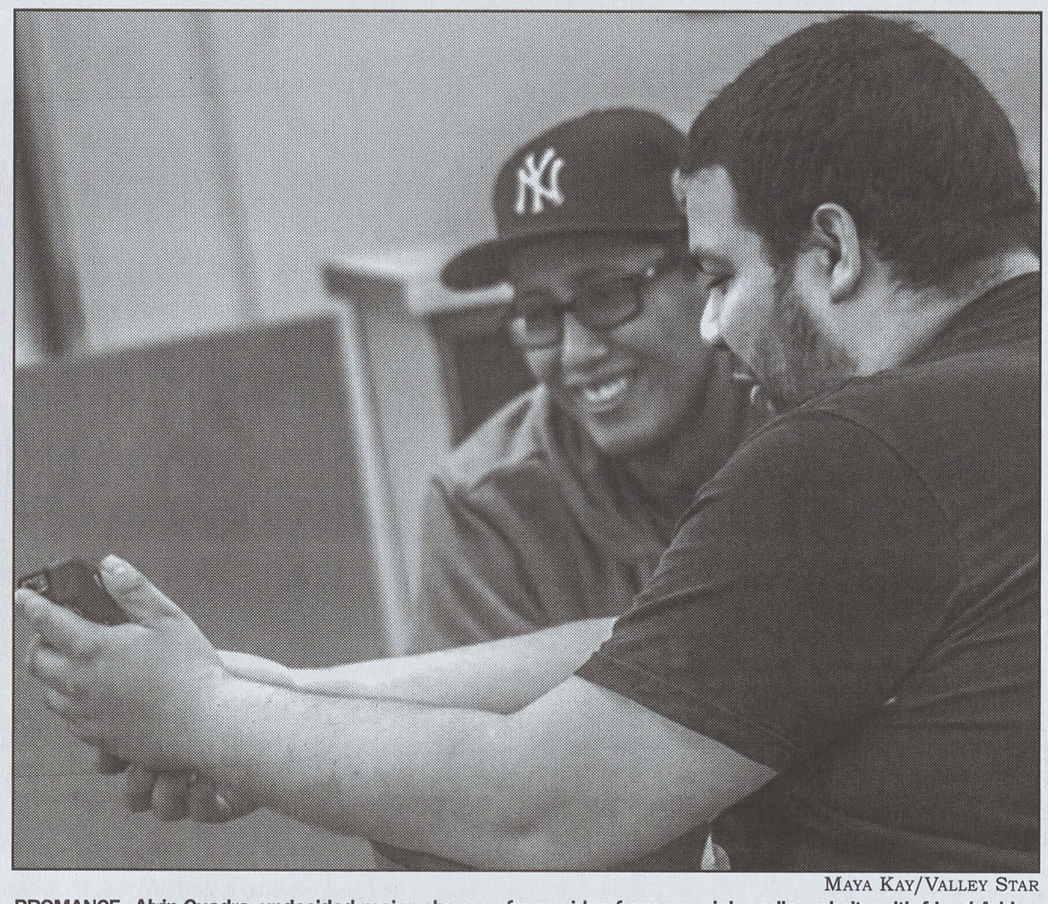
The distance between Valley and Pierce is 18 minutes driving via the US-101 without traffic; via public transport the commute is estimated at 41 minutes. Furthermore, additional time must be calculated to find parking or factor in traffic.

Glendale Community College is only two miles farther but is estimated to take over twice as long via the Metro. However, registration for Glendale or others not within the Los Angeles Community College District traditionally opens far later than Valley's, making them a viable Plan B.

Valley currently does not have a formal wait-list system, but one is expected to be implemented during the next two years with the coming of the new Student Information System, according to Daar. Meanwhile, Monarchs can find themselves taking a long, long way around the track.

Match-made in media

■ Online dating sites and apps are being more widely used and accepted amongst all different age groups.



MAYA KAY/VALLEY STAR

BROMANCE - Alvin Cuadra, undecided major, shares a funny video from a social media website with friend Adrian Arenas, business administration major, during their photography class.

BY MIKAYLA FOSS
STAFF WRITER

College students have been swiping a little extra lately -- not their credit cards.

Tinder, an online dating app that puts a spin on the old "hot or not" game by having users swipe right if they are interested and left if they are not, has gained popularity amongst individuals searching for potential partners, friends, or hookups.

After being created by USC alumni and co-founders Sean Rad and Justin Mateen in September 2012, the app now sees more than 850 million swipes and more than 10 million matches every single day according to Tinder's blog.

The app works by connecting user's profiles with their Facebook accounts and using a GPS to show the user nearby potential matches. If both users "swipe right" on each other's pictures, than a match is created and the users may proceed to message each other. This way, a mutual interest is needed for a conversation to begin, and the fear of rejection is avoided.

A study released by the Pew Research Center shows that American's social stigmas towards online dating are slowly decreasing as the amount of online daters are increasing. The report, based on a telephone survey of 2,252 adults age 18 or older, found that 38 percent of those who say they are "single and looking" have used dating sites or mobile apps to meet potential partners.

The Pew Research Center also revealed that, "59 percent of internet users agree with the statement that, 'online dating is a good way to meet people,' a 15-point increase from the 44 percent who said so in 2005."

"Because generations of younger people are very comfortable using technology and have already put a lot of their own personal information online, it only makes sense that they continue to use technology (to meet people)," Jessica Carbino, a UCLA graduate student in sociology, told the Daily Bruin.

College students aren't the only ones using online dating tools to meet people. Hillary Duff and Eric Stonestreet have recently announced that they too have Tinder profiles.

"I've always met people through work and I have never been on a blind date. What's the worst that could happen?" Duff said in a video interview with ABC News. She also went on to describe what she looks for in a potential match. "I think the first thing is obviously looks, which sounds super vain, but that is what you first go for: natural chemistry. Also what they say in their profile has to be funny. I don't want to see a shirtless mirror selfie. That is instantly a left. Someone who looks like they like to do fun things and someone who can make you laugh in their profile."

Besides Tinder, there are a multitude of other online dating sites that people are using to aid their love lives. The website eHarmony, who's

see SOCIAL page 3

DAVID DINWIDDIE/VALLEY STAR

POISED - Forty years after flunking out of school, Marie Tramz has re-dedicated herself, and is inspiring others by transferring to Columbia University.

'Columbia'

continued from page 1

Tramz emphasized the importance of having an educational plan set and personally doing research on the schools she was interested in.

"I had flunked anthropology in my first college years so I was going to take it over here, because I figured a failing grade could be replaced with a passing grade. I took my transcripts over to UC Irvine on transfer day and spoke to one of the admissions people and she told me that it would not have counted if I had done that and that I would have had to retake it at a UC because I took it at a UC the first time. The counselors here [had not] known that, so you need to do your own research and talk to the admissions people at the colleges that you want to go to."

Tramz's study ethic had completely changed now that she was actually motivated to succeed and doing something she enjoyed. She made study groups with classmates whenever she could, she worked on improving her writing and staying organized - and it payed off.

At first glance, it seemed her grades from her earlier years in Santa Clara would drag her 3.8 GPA down to a 2.6 - too low to apply to the schools she wanted.

Tramz continued to do her own research and learned each school takes different classes into account and she had actually been verified at the UC records department with a 3.77 GPA.

She originally intended to apply in-state only, in fact, Columbia University had not even been on her radar until a professor told her class that they should not be discounting Ivy League schools because of money and that these universities often help students with their tuition.

Tramz's daughter attended Columbia with financial help, so Tramz began to look into it as well. Despite the somewhat discouraging requirements that she found on the university website, Tramz attended an information session and was told by an admissions person she should apply regardless—something that she would not have been able to tell

see COLUMBIA page 3

'Finals'

continued from page 1

classwork for each class and I focus on the parts that I had trouble with in previous quizzes and tests," said Nouran Felo, biology major. "So it's more important to focus on what I did wrong.

"I also try to study with classmates if I can because we're much more productive together than alone. We can help each other understand the tough concepts."

Other students, like business marketing major Stephanie Mendoza, prefer the opposite when studying.

"I study alone," said Mendoza. "I get distracted easily if I study with others."

There are a number of available resources online that provide numerous studying tips for students in need.

A website such as www.HowToStudy.com, gives a copious amount of advice and tips for students about to take final exams. Their four main points of emphasis are "Getting Ready," "Taking In," "Remembering," and "Output."

"Getting Ready" focuses on the study environment, organization, goals and learning styles, while "Taking In," tackles how students can manage their time, research accurate information, and stress management.

Felo said she has a strict way preparing to study to maximize her taking in as much info as possible.

"I clean the house before I study because it helps me clear my mind," said Felo. "I also try to eat healthier during finals week so I won't feel sluggish."

The "Remembering" and "Output" phases key in on improving memory, organizing visual memories, dealing with anxiety, and writing essays.

For more information please visit: http://www.howtostudy.org/

Valley's final exam schedule is located on the front page and can be found on Valley's website at: http://www.lavc.edu/schedule/2015Spring_FinalExamSched.pdf

For additional content, visit: www.thevalleystar.com

OPINION

THIS IS THE END...OF SPRING

ILLUSTRATION BY SARA ALMALLA/VALLEY STAR

COMING TO A CLOSE- The clouds are setting over another semester at Valley College, as the spring session comes to a close and Monarchs get ready for finals and summer.

'Columbia'

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from the website.

Tramz reiterated the importance in looking outside of Los Angeles and California for universities, affirming that going out of state often means having more money available through FAFSA and scholarships.

"The Columbia University tuition is a lot of money and it would deter most people, but there is financial aid available," she said. "Don't apply to Northridge just because it's cheap. There are a lot of other options."

Tramz has been studying Internet marketing and plans to make some of the money she needs for Columbia through a wide range of tactics, from starting blogs and monetizing them, to using websites like fiverr, where people do small tasks for five dollars and possibly even creating a Kickstarter fund.

MILITARIZED POLICE

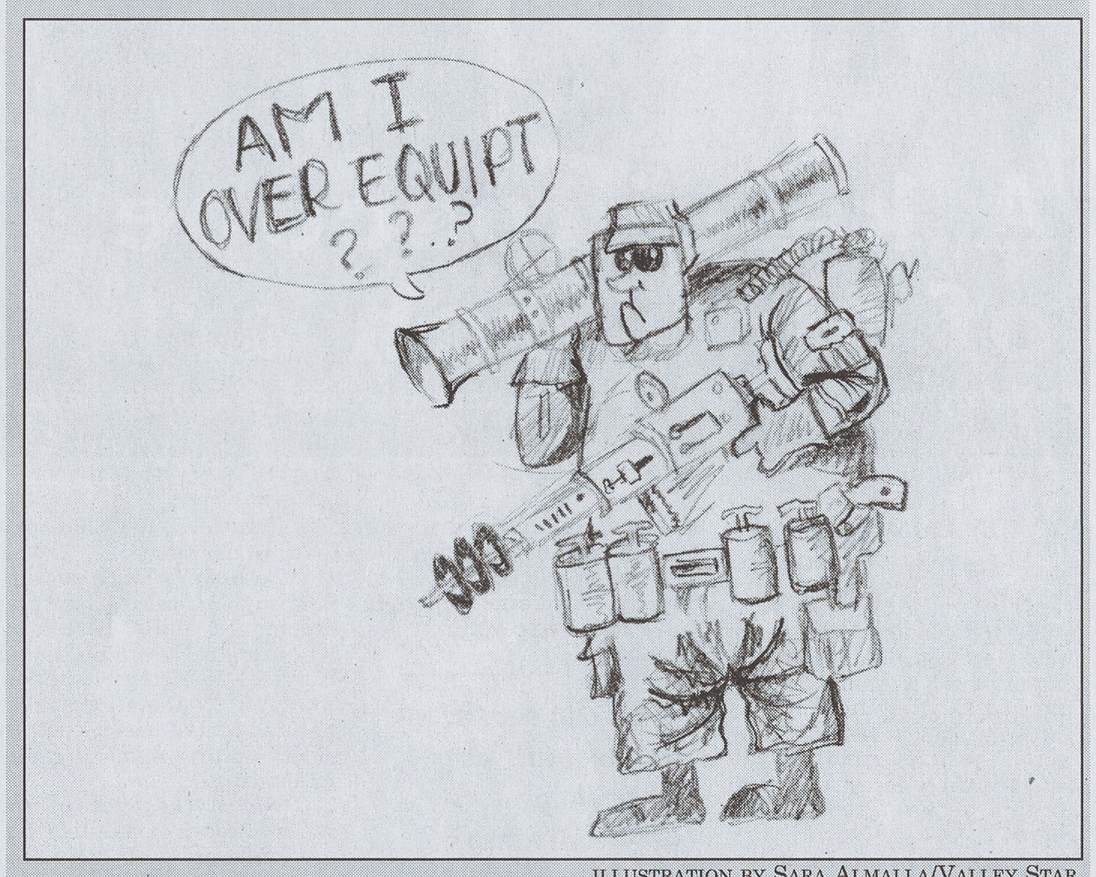

ILLUSTRATION BY SARA ALMALLA/VALLEY STAR

PATROLING LOCKED AND LOADED-The police sole purpose is to protect and serve Americans not to intimidate them. With cops having weapons that belong on the battlefield and not being shy of displaying them and putting it into action, it is only normal that the people would feel threaten and react. Can Americans feel safe knowing that the police could possibly roll down the block with a tank-like vehicle?

To read the rest of this article pleae go to www.thevalleystar.com.

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'Social'

continued from page 2

slogan is "when you're ready to find the love of your life," was launched in August 2000, and now provides service to millions of singles. Match.com, OkCupid, Zoosk, and Christian Mingle are just a few of the slogan is "when you're ready to find the love of your life," was launched in August 2000, and now provides service to millions of singles. Match.com, OkCupid, Zoosk, and Christian Mingle are just a few of the growing sites.
growing sites.

"I used eHarmony for about a week and I talked to 10 different guys and met two of them in person. One of them was very sweet and we bonded really well…The other was a nightmare," shared Valley College student Kelley Biggs.

Other's have had great success off of sites like these, including Valley College Sociology professor Dr. Sally Raskoff's daughter, who is now married to someone she met on eHarmony.

Despite her daughter's success, Dr. Raskoff shared that she is "not on one side of the fence or the other" regarding online dating sites and apps due to the potential negative long term affects on human's social behaviors.

"We're detaching ourselves from human interaction, to find human interaction... When you meet somebody you either like them or don't like them, or you like their smell or you don't like their smell. There's all sorts of things we don't understand the depth of that you can't do through internet means. And the more we detach ourselves from other people, especially in the quest to find someone, it's causing issues because it's a mismatch between what we want and what we're going to get."

Whether your next date is an online match-up or an in-person meeting, you can count on not being alone in your quest for new relationships. As Duff said, "What's the worst that can happen?"

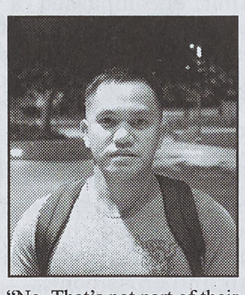
For more content and to remain active with all things Valley Star, you can visit our site below:

TheValleyStar.com

CampusView

Do you feel safe with police using weapons of war?

PHOTOS BY ARIANE AZAR, VALLEY STAR

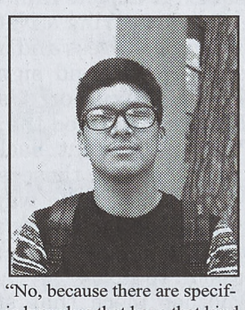


"No. That's not part of their branch. That's a whole different department that needs to deal with that."

CHRIS BAVISTA, NURSING

"No, because there's always the option to get extra help. Too much power is a bad thing."

JAMIE BENDER, COMMUNICATIONS

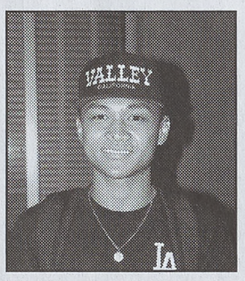


"No, because there are specific branches that have that kind of authority, and the power to use those weapons."

JULIO GONZALEZ, UNDECIDED

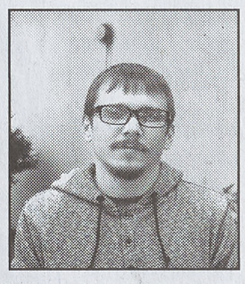
"No. With everything going on right now, it'll up their ego and make the police feel like they can do anything, including hurt people."

MEGAN MCDONALD, CHEMISTRY



"No, I don't think the police should have access to military weapons, because they take advantage of their authority, and if they have access to military weapons, they might abuse their power even more than they already do."

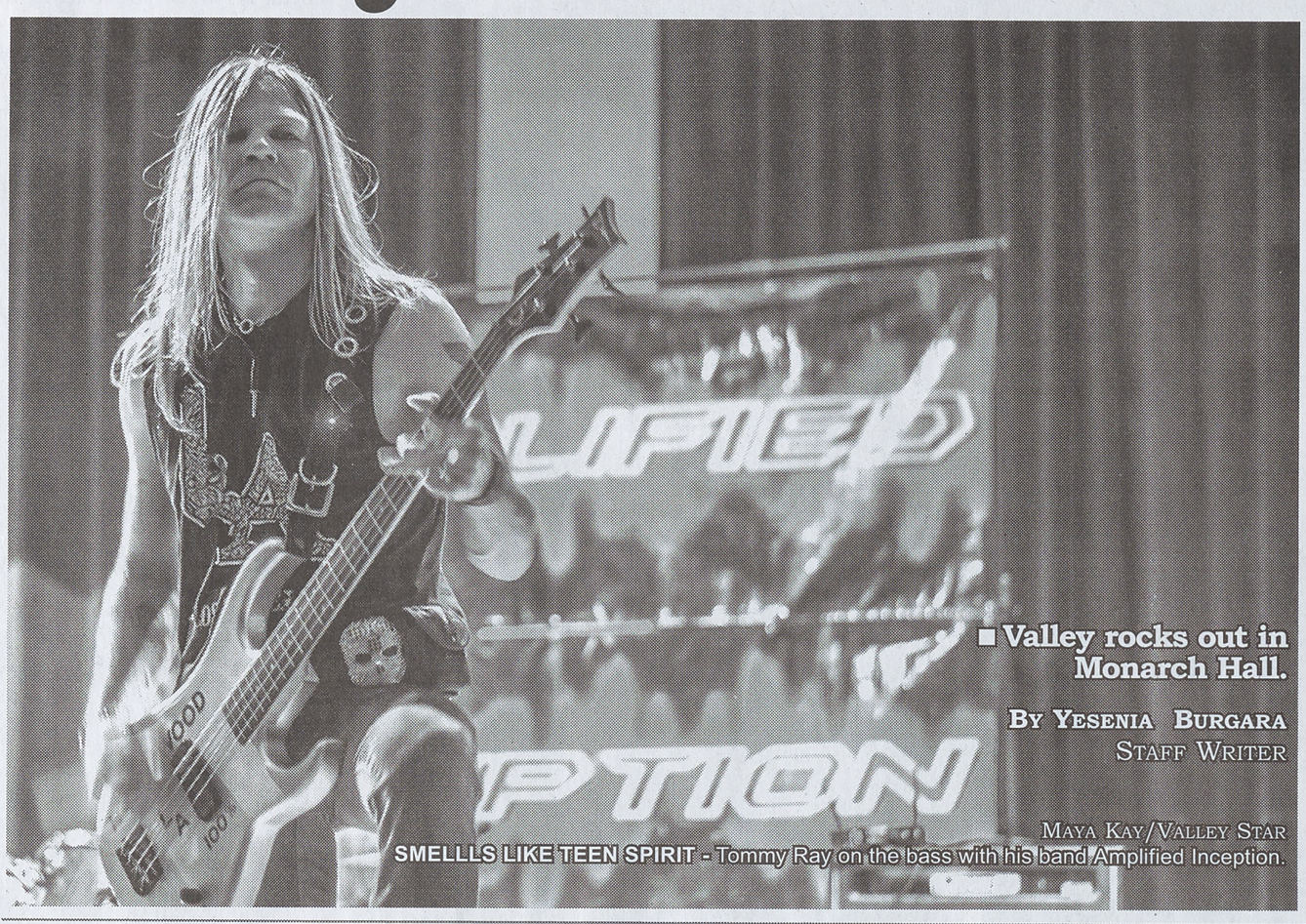
RALPH MCLOVINN, SOCIOLOGY



"No. There is a National Guard that exists for that reason!"

VYCHESLAV SCDORKIN, PHILOSOPHY

Valley becomes school of rock



■ Valley rocks out in Monarch Hall.

BY YESENIA BURGARA
STAFF WRITER

MAYA KAY/VALLEY STAR

SMELLLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT - Tommy Ray on the bass with his band Amplified Inception.

Valley held its first "Battle of the Bands" in Monarch Hall Friday, where five bands performed live in front of Valley students, visitors and judges. The event was presented by 95.1 KVCM Monarchs Radio and the KVCM Broadcasting Club.

The Broadcasting Club President Krystal Hill was content with the turnout, $371 were raised and will be used for broadcasting equipment, 53 tickets were sold at $7 each.

"It was a good turnout. It's something we never tried before and we had a really good time. We had a solid crew and great bands, everyone was really feeling it, everyone wants to do it again," she said. "We are going to try to make it an annual event."

The bands, Amplified Inception, The Aeons, The Voxes, Eruption and No Girlfriends rocked out on stage playing indie, indie rock and heavy metal.

The bands were all recruited by Broadcasting Club members. They all competed for social media coverage by KVCM, music and all interviews posted on KVCM's SoundCloud and winners music played at top and bottom of every hour.

The bands followed the traditional rock lineup except for No Girlfriends who were the only all-girl performers of the night, Neko Gehr (a 2009 Valley alumna), her twin Jess Gehr, Janelle Obert, and Rose Erangey.

The ebb and flow of the crowd changed as different bands came and left. Between sets, Valley Broadcasting major Abraham Salazar played top while the audience enjoyed pizza and soft drinks which were included with admission.

Their performances were judged on creativity, cohesiveness, stage performance, musicianship and audience response by ASU Secretary Janet Lamas, ASU Cheif Justice Lisette "Liz" Martinez, Media Arts Professor Adrian Castillo, Jolynn Braswell a blogger for badassbands-blog.com and Marvin Columbus dancer and choreographer from 80s and 90s and coordinator of Valley's first boxing event.

"Easily the best band of the night. Creative, fun and they ripped," blogged Braswell.

Columbus said,"They were flawless and had great presence. They deserved to win."

No Girlfriends celebrated their victory by taking pictures with their fans and announced they would be playing at Make Music in Pasadena on June 6.

CAMPUS STYLE

Fashion fugitive

BY MONESSA CHAHAYED
ONLINE EDITOR

George Perez's wardrobe consists of neutral and earth tones that never go out of style.

The communications major is not afraid to mix patterns and colors for a down-to-earth look.

Buying clothes wholesale has saved Perez, 24, a lot of money. Over time, he has built relationships with shop owners in Downtown Los Angeles who contact him when there are sample sales and other deals going on.

"When you start to get more versed in downtown, you start making friends. You have to constantly be going and making relationships with the people that are in charge of that."

Today he wears a black Trilby hat and a cream patterned scarf over a blue and white patterned button-up paired with dark blue jeans and brown oxford Sperry's.

The button-up was purchased in DTLA and was made from the same supplier as Urban Outfitters, which he says retails for about $75, and he bought for $20.

Perez could not go without his favorite accessory: a Penguin watch which, compared to the rest of his outfit, may be the most expensive piece.

The watches retail at upwards of $100. Other than watches, he will simply accessorize with a hat every now and then.

In middle school, Perez learned that first appearances are everything through his psychologist father. He watched wealthy clients come and go, admiring the effort they all put into their appearance.

"I learned early on in life that first appearances mean everything because you never know what kind of doors are going to open for you."

His motivation to put a look together for school is partly because he goes to work at a furniture company after class, however, after college he plans to join a PR firm as a junior publicist.

When Perez isn't working or going to school, he is going out with friends whether its a night out in the city or a day of hiking.

For a night out, he will choose a bold color or pattern he said, "just to add flair." If he isn't shopping wholesale, he will wait until the end of the season at any clothing store when everything goes on sale.

Perez loves finding durable utility items that will last him a long time, such as military bags and the backpack he wears today that he got as a Christmas gift.

He not only looks for these pieces because they are well made, but he also pulls inspiration from the '40s and '50s in that the style is timeless.

"When you're really into fashion you understand that fashion recycles and when you buy something classic, it can last you a long time because it's a timeless piece."

Perez has admired his father's style over anyone in the media since he was young. He remembers watching his dad put a suit on every morning for work and says he has good taste.

"If I did have somebody that was my inspiration [in the media] it would be very cookie-cutter . . . that's the thing about style, you can't copy from anybody. Style is like flair. Everybody has their own unique style."

Campus Style

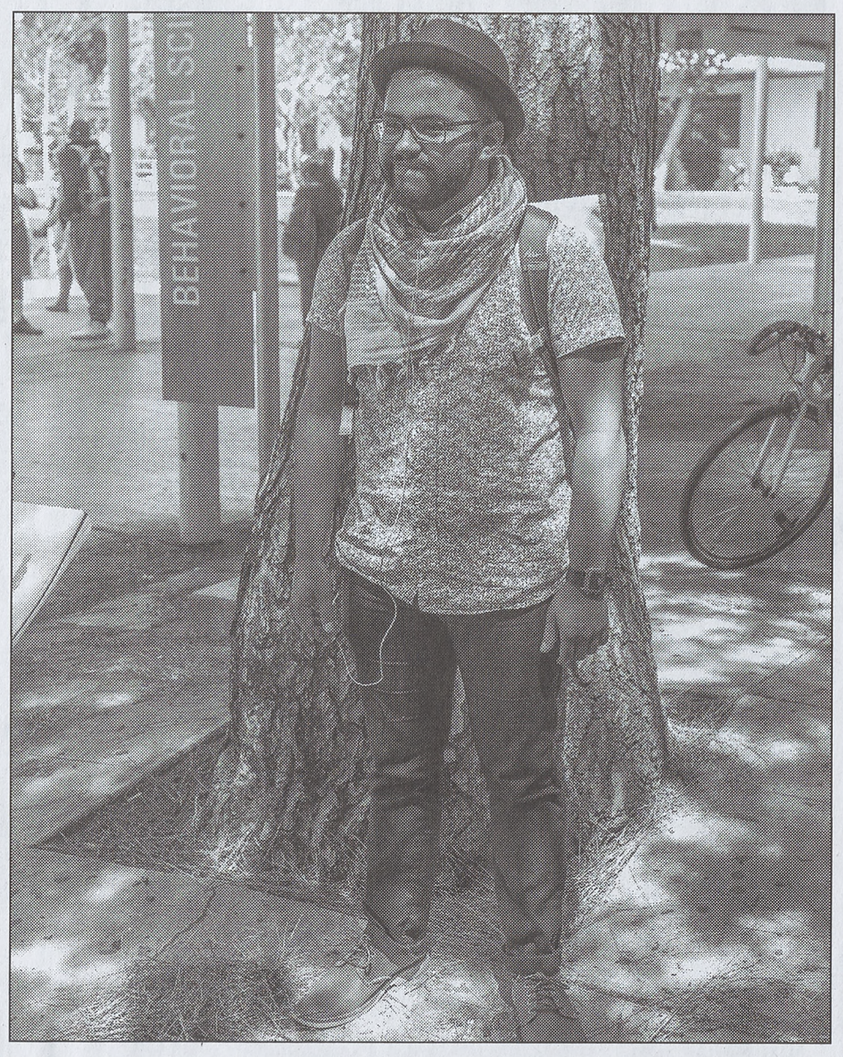
■ George Perez doesn't pay the fashion police any mind when it comes to their rules against combining different patterns.

George Perez Likes:

Music: Pop Winds

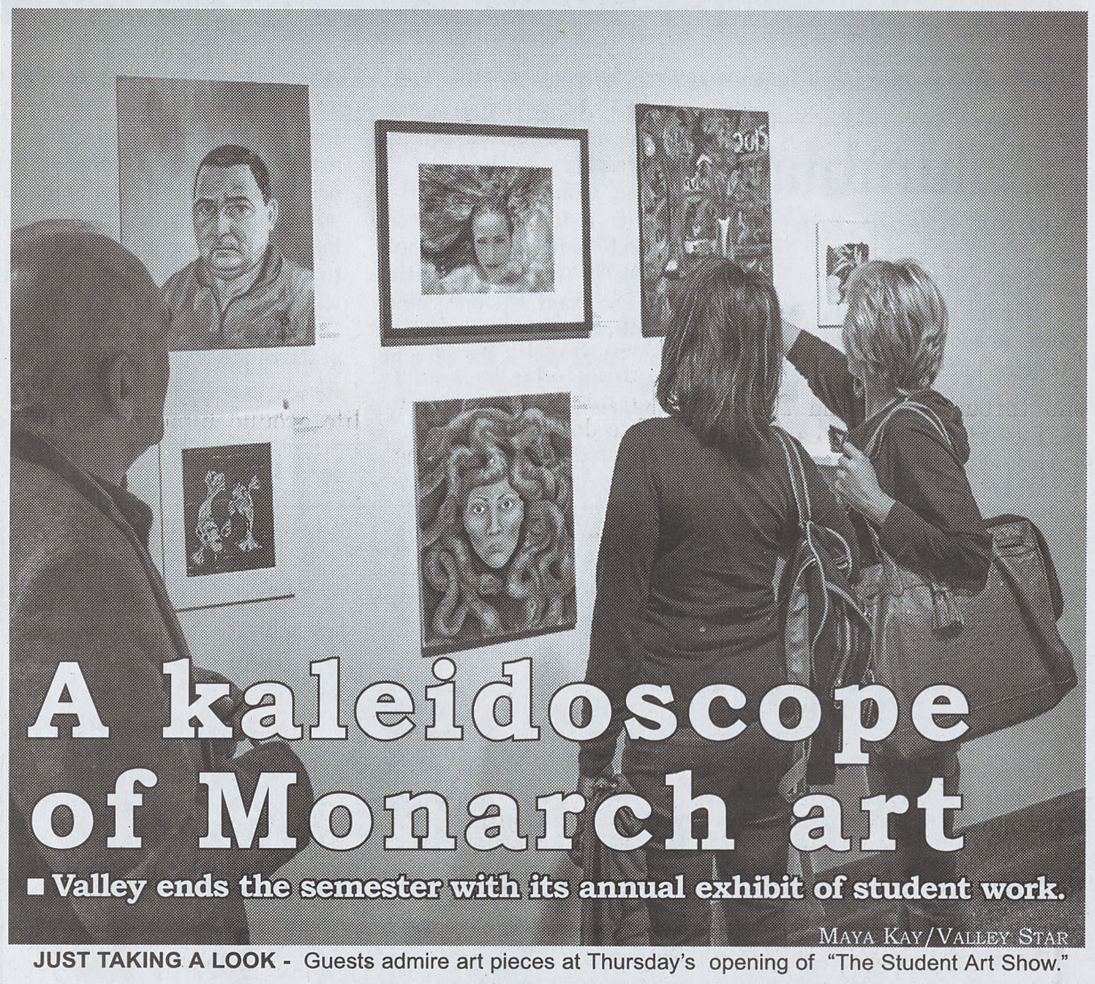
TV Shows: Game of Thrones, Girls

Style Idol: His dad



SPOTTED! - George Perez looks good and saves money buying quality wholesale pieces.

STUDENT ART SHOW



A kaleidoscope of Monarch art

■ Valley ends the semester with its annual exhibit of student work.

MAYA KAY/VALLEY STAR

JUST TAKING A LOOK - Guests admire art pieces at Thursday's opening of "The Student Art Show."

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

"I think if we took every student in Valley College and we gave them one art appreciation class it would change their lives. It would change the way they look at the world," said Barrett Taylor, who has three pieces featured in this year's "Student Art Show."

The student works showcased in the Art Gallery varied from paintings, drawings, and sculptures to much more; they were among those chosen by the art and photojournalism faculty for the 2014-2015 academic year.

As guests made their way into the gallery, they were greeted by "18," a life-size self-portrait by Cesar Velasquez. It depicts him with a third eye, wearing a Native-American headdress and making mysterious hand signals. Drawing instructor Jason Kunke noted, "I liked the way he [Velasquez] went back in and inscribed all these symbols. You can see the way he built up these shapes, it's very confrontational and there's an aggression to it."

Another piece that stood out was an unusual untitled drawing by Kristina Kara, which illustrated a creature that looks like a woman morphed together with a bird. The rich colors, especially the deep velvet from the wings, stand out against the black background. The drawing itself makes one question the relationship between the two subjects – bird and woman. It was captivating yet intriguing.

"You can see the way he built up these shapes, its very confrontational and there's an aggression to it."

- Jason Kunke

Out of the photographs from the lot, "Disney Hall and Full Moon," by Alvin Cuadra (contributor to the Star), was the most eye-catching.

By using a fisheye lens and focusing the camera on the railing from the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Cuadra added depth to the image, while the street lights and bright moon in the background illuminate the night sky.

"I just wanted to display natures beauty and the architectural curves of the concert hall," said Cuadra.

Yasmin Gomez's green and golden pieces, "Decaying Tutu" and "Submerged Ballerina," were highly admired by sociology major Pricilla Sandoval and professor Kunke. The peices looked like copper items that oxidized underwater.

"Both were made in similar ways, by taking lace and dipping it into porcelain. It's extremely fragile," said Kunke. "It brings together whatever connotation ballet has and sort of meshes it with abject decay, which is really interesting."

Toward the back of the gallery was a snake-like figure made up of 45 golf balls, each a different gradation of red. "The difficult thing about that piece is that each golf ball is cast with plastic in a rubber mold and she had to dye the plastic perfectly to get that even gradation from white to red," said art instructor Jamison Carter. "It's technically an extremely difficult thing to do."

Thursday night's art exhibit encompassed a variety of works with different themes, from dark pieces such as "Agitated Victim," a mock-up of a bloody arm holding a detonator, to more playful ones such as "Pop Art Crayfish," a work incorporating cut outs of different images put together to form a unique interpretation of a skull and cross bones.

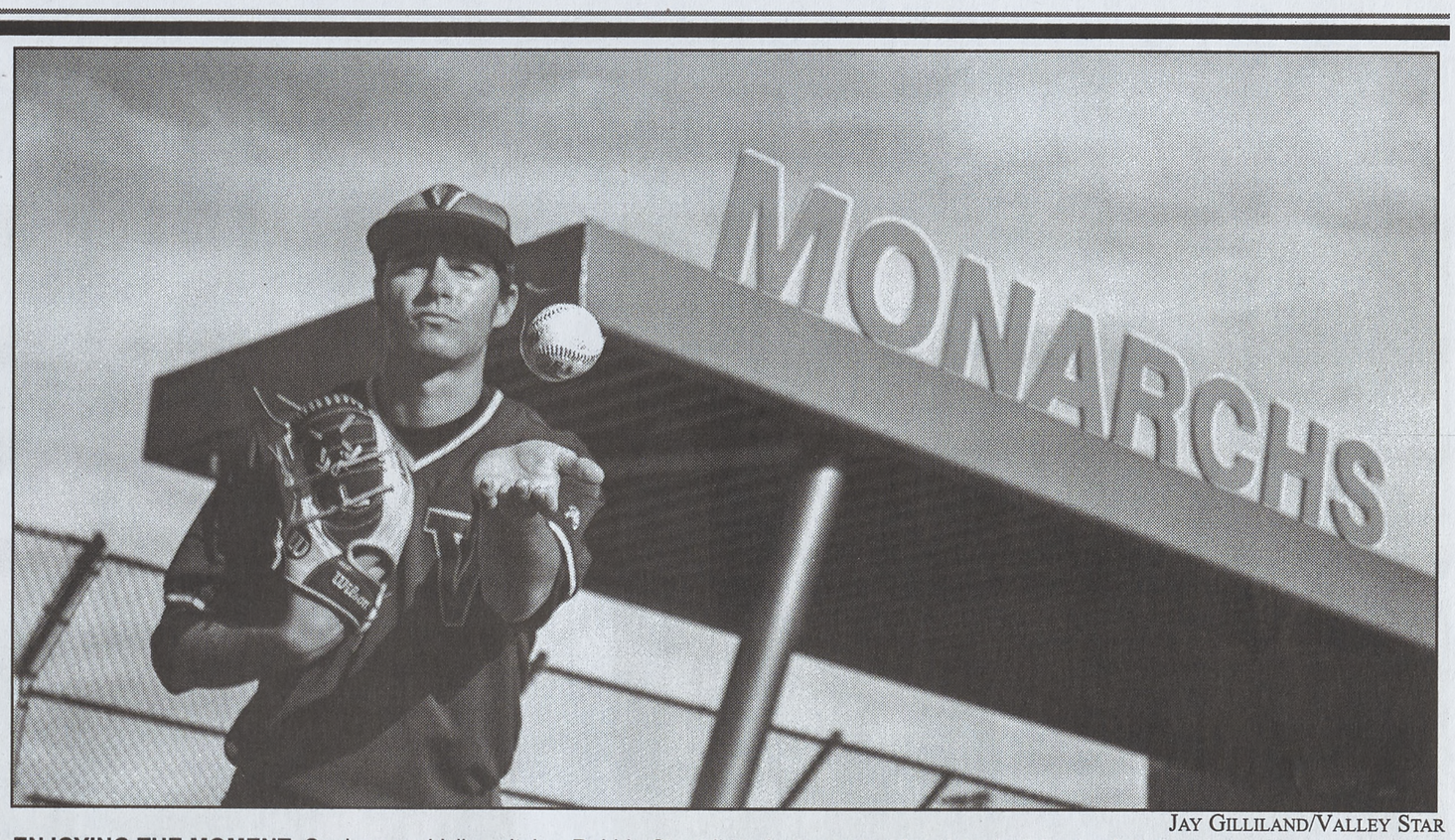
"The Student Art Show" will be on display at the Art Gallery (located in the Art Building) until May 28 and will open back up on Sept. 2. General Gallery Hours: Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

BASEBALL

Island life changes currents for Monarch pitcher

■ **Hawaii shows the Monarch pitcher a different side to life.**

BY JORGE BELON
MANAGING EDITOR



JAY GILLILAND/VALLEY STAR

ENJOYING THE MOMENT- Sophomore Valley pitcher Robbie Stowell is playing stress free baseball for the first time in his life as he finished with an ERA of 2.22 that placed him sixth in the Western State Conference.

Robert Mason Stowell III discovered his true form as pitcher riding the powerful Hawaiian waves as he wiped out hitters with an 81-mph fastball.

"I went to Hawaii during the winter to visit my brother, and I was in a funk. I did not have that good of a fall. It just did not look like I was going to do a lot of pitching this year," said Stowell. " Then I went out to Hawaii and it put things in perspective. It really helped me find my identity as a left handed pitcher. I really think that set me up to have a really good season."

There is no mistaking the 6-foot-3 left-handed pitcher's love of baseball; it runs through his mind all the time. He enjoys the game for the strikeouts and other physical aspects, but recently he became fascinated with the intellectual side.

"I always had the physical side down, being tall and skinny and left handed, but what I now really admire is the thinking part of the game," said the Monarch pitcher.

To most people, baseball is a game of throwing the ball into a glove or getting on base. Stowell reads the game as Neo read the Matrix: it's all in code. He reads the hitters as they step up to the plate. He savors the decision-making process that starts with the coach making signs, then having to take that information break it down and make it happen while the game is going on.

Since his high school days at Frazier Mountain High, he knew that he did not have a lethal fastball but he still forced the issue. Even in his first semester at Valley College in 2014 he continued to rely on his 81-mph-average "heater" to do the trick.

In his freshman year, he pitched in 22 innings, gave up 27 hits and walked 14 players. He also allowed 15 runs and committed 13 errors in the process. His struggles showed as he finished the season with a 5.16 ERA, which was not good enough to be ranked in the Western State Conference (WSC) top 50.

He wanted to make his final year the best after a disappointing freshman campaign. He continued to work on his fastball but grew frustrated and felt that he was hitting a wall with his game.

It took that mini-vacation to Hawaii to visit his brother that finally made the 19-year-old realize that he could not force something that had not naturally been given to him. In fact, entering his final year at Valley he learned to enjoy baseball and life around him and with it he discovered his own pitching style.

"I was relying on the fastball and I wanted to send everyone out with it, I was really forcing it and I was struggling and not enjoying myself," said the animated Stowell, talking as much with his hands as his mouth. "It was not until Hawaii that I returned and I just started to discover what type of a pitcher I was. I love to play mind games with the hitters. It is a lot of fun to do that and mess with their heads. Never placing the ball at the same place twice and just constantly keeping them guessing. I just love doing that."

The lefty found reason to smile on the field, pitching well enough to lead the team in appearances (16 of the team's 36 games) and pitching in 48 innings, more than double of his freshman year. He also improved by walking five fewer players and slashing his ERA to 2.22, finishing in sixth place of the WSC.

"I remember in his freshman year he did not play a lot," said Valley Head Coach Dave Mallas. "This year he improved in almost every aspect we asked him to. When ever Robbie was on the mound this year we always had a good chance of winning the game."

Now that the season is over he is now focused on deciding which four-year university he should go to, leaning towards a major in business or history. He hopes to be playing for his dream school, the University of Hawaii, but at the moment he is fishing through other offers.

"I have reviewed offers from schools but I am not committed yet," said Stowell. "I want to go back to Hawaii for the summer if I pick a school before the semester ends. But I do not want to just rush this decision to just head back to Hawaii, I want to make sure I make the right choice and that I am happy with this decision. Honestly, when you think about it I will be playing baseball while attending school for free, it really cannot get any better then that. So I need to just enjoy this moment and take it day by day."

When asked if he wants to play in the majors one day, he responds with a smile and once again his hands translate what he is saying.

"Of course I would love to get drafted and I honestly think just a semester ago I would of been freaking about this topic," said the sophomore. "But now I look at it and think if I do not make it, life still goes on. There are so many things out there and baseball will not decided whether I am happy or not in my life. I honestly believe that we control our own happiness, but one thing I do know for sure is that I will one day call the shores of Hawaii my home."

For additional content; please visit: www.thevalleystar.com

FOOTBALL

ARIANE AZAR/VALLEY STAR

GREEN LIGHT- Sophomore quarterback Cody Deal is ready to make his next move in Tuesday afternoon practice at Monarch Stadium.

New year, same adversity

■ **The Monarchs will have to look to a new head-coaching regime for the fall season.**

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Entering its 66th season, Valley College's football program will once again have to come face to face with what is becoming an annual reality – a new head coach.

The team has decided to move on from Head Coach Juan Navarro after a disappointing 3-7 (1-6) record in his first season holding the position.

"It was really shocking," said redshirt sophomore quarterback Patrick Tyler on Navarro's departure. "[Navarro] put so much into the program and so many players were behind him 100 percent. It was definitely frustrating to hear he wasn't going to return as the head coach."

A new head coach has not been named yet, and will not be able to join the team until early July when a hiring is made official. The hiring will mark the second-straight summer a new coach will be brought in, making it three different head coaches in three seasons for the Monarchs.

"You've established something, you've worked so hard, and lay the foundation, only for stuff not to work out," said Navarro. "It's just unfortunate. The culture is changing, and I hate to see it go, but it's a business, and I understand that part. Nevertheless, there is still a very good outlook in terms of the guys who are coming back and the program overall going forward."

The good outlook Navarro refers to includes Division I scouts from universities such as USC, Arizona State University, and Louisville attending their spring practices in the last couple of months. The program also had four players from last season transfer to Division I schools on full scholarships (Idarius Ray to Louisville, Ellis Richardson to Alabama State, Mark Finau to UNLV, and DeLane Hart-Johnson to the University of New Mexico).

Though continuity with the coaching staff has been lost, the Monarchs will still return nearly 80 percent of last year's roster.

In 2014, Valley's defense was a dominant bunch, finishing seventh in the state in total yards allowed and was the top-ranked unit after the first five weeks.

"The defense is stacked," said sophomore cornerback Eric Jenkins, who led the team in interceptions last year. "We can use improvements at our [defensive-line] position, but that's about it, the defense is ready."

The offense on the other hand struggled mightily. The unit only averaged 217.9 yards through the air per game, good for 44th in the state (out of 69 teams); the running game was even worse, only contributing 83 yards per game, ranking a lowly 63rd in the state.

Valley will also have to replace quarterback Ellis Richardson who put up impressive numbers while only starting the second half of the season. Richardson threw for over 1,300 yards, nine touchdowns to only three interceptions, while completing nearly 60 percent of his passes last season.

Tyler, who will be competing to be the starting quarterback this season, attributes last year's offensive struggles to lack of cohesion and to learn the system in a short period of time.

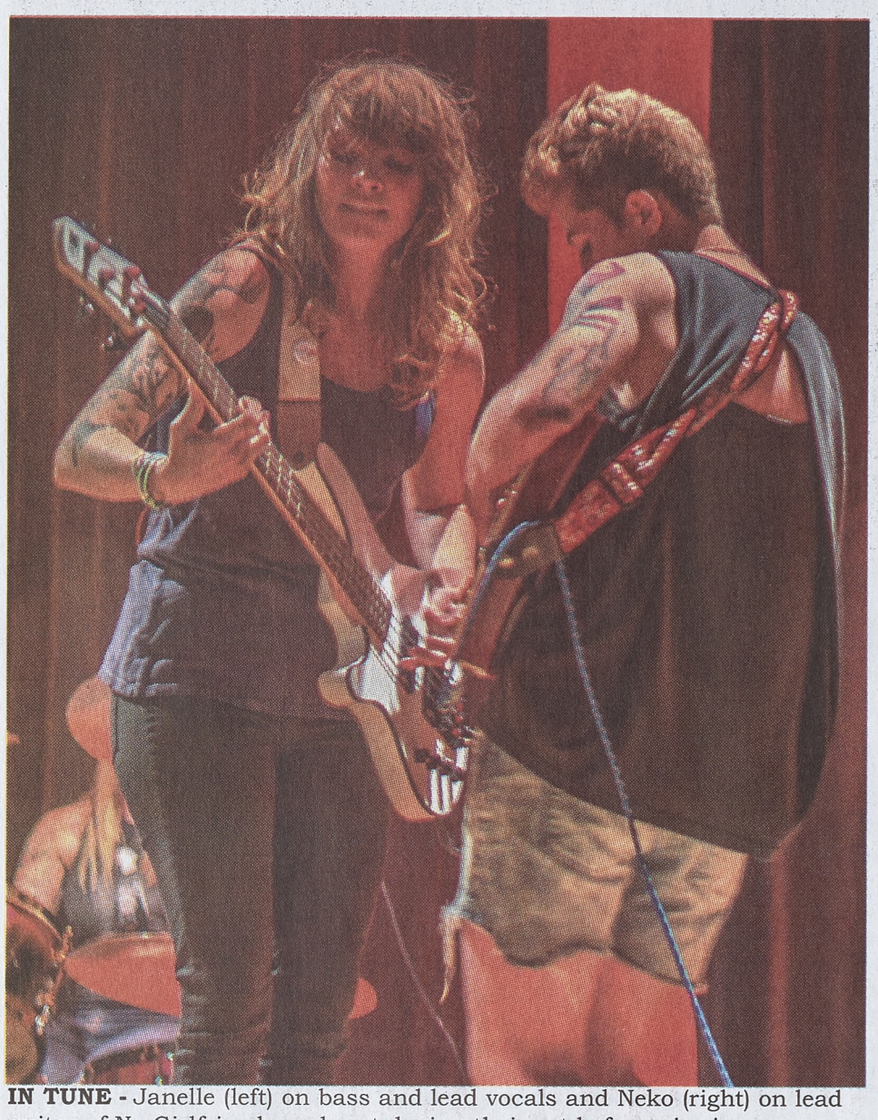
"Just everyone being on the same page [will make the offense more successful]," said Tyler. "Last season a lot of players came in late and the offense was a little difficult to pick up. This year everyone has a head start on picking up the offense so there shouldn't be any reason to not be better than last year on that side of the ball."

The redshirt sophomore expects no lull from the team despite going through another coaching change this season, as it is on the players themselves to get the job done on the field, regardless.

"At the end of the day it's still football, so not much has changed but leadership. Once everyone gets comfortable with the new head coach we'll be fine. Our mindset will still be the same compete everyday, get better, and win. That's what it's all about."

GALLERY

Monarchs of mayhem



IN TUNE - Janelle (left) on bass and lead vocals and Neko (right) on lead guitar of No Girlfriends rock out during their set before winning.

ROCK STARS - Drummer, bass and guitar players of Eruption headbanging Friday night.

PHOTOS BY
MAYA KAY
&
GUILLERMO MARTINEZ

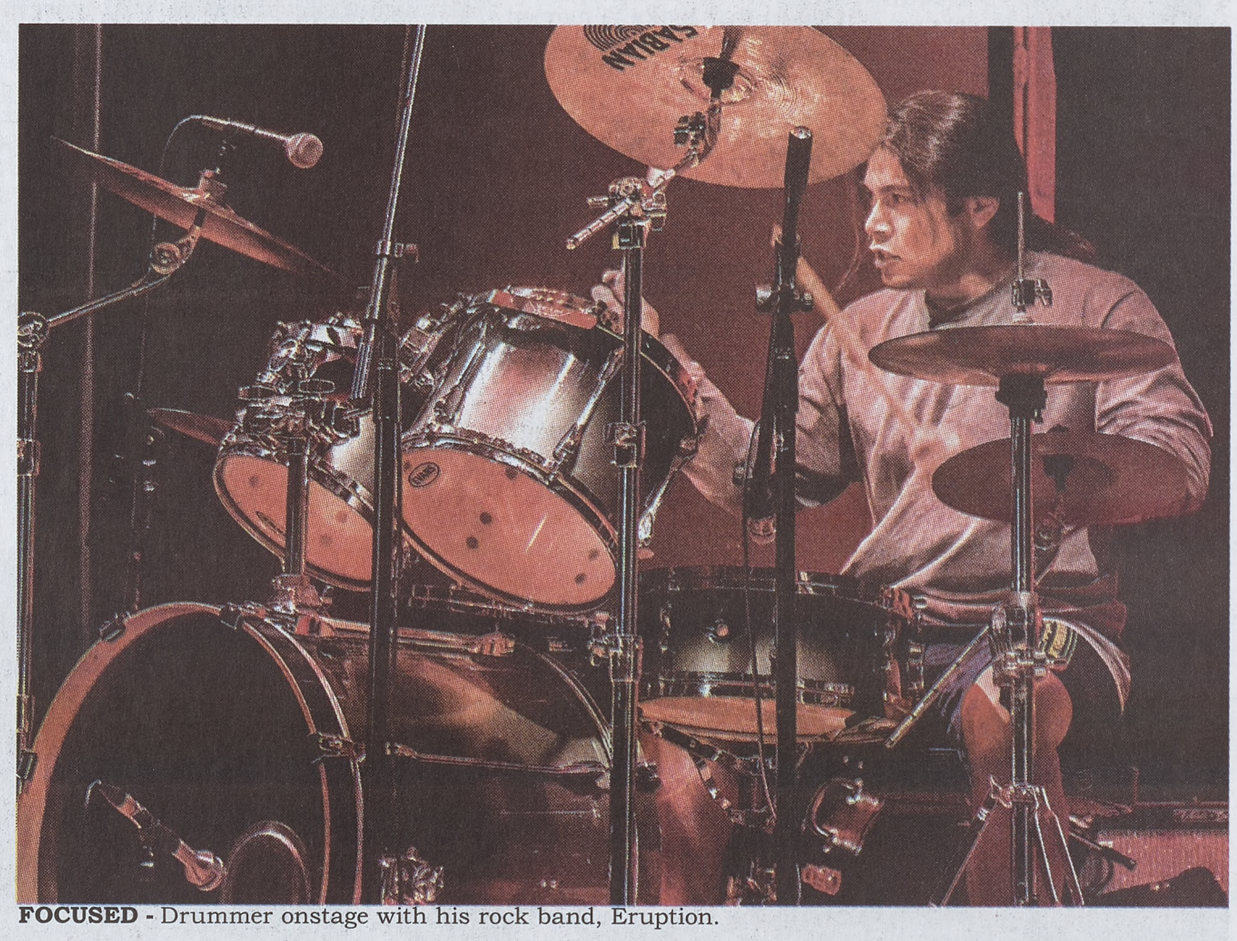
WORDS BY
MONESSA CHAHAYED

On Friday, May 22nd the Broadcasting Club hosted Valley College's first ever "Battle of the Bands" in Monarch Hall.

The event began at 6 p.m. with around 50 people in attendance.

The five rock-based bands that performed: Amplified Inception, The Aeons, The Voxes, Eruption and No Girlfriends were recruited by the Broadcasting Club.

No Girlfriends, the only all-girl performers, won the battle and announced they will be performing at Make Music in Pasadena on June 6th.



FOCUSED - Drummer onstage with his rock band, Eruption.

SLAPPIN' THE BASS - Tommy Ray of Amplified Inception on bass Friday night.

GET A GRIP - Josh Rossi, vocalist of the indie-rock band The Aeons, rocking out onstage.